

Appln. No. 09/755,752
Amdt dated: May 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated Feb. 7, 2005

REMARKS

These remarks are set forth in response to the Office Action mailed February 7, 2005, (the "Office Action"). As this response has been timely filed within the three-month statutory period an extension of time is not required.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-24 were pending in the Patent Application. Claims 1-2, 10, 13-14 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Patent No. 5,974,325 to Kotzin et al. (hereinafter "Kotzin"). Claims 3-9, 15-16 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kotzin in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,584,080 to Ganz, et al. (hereinafter Ganz). Claims 5, 11-12, 17 and 23-24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1 and 13, from which claims 5 and 17 previously depended, respectively, have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 5 and 17. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 13, as well as their respective dependent claims, are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 11-12 and 23-24 have been amended to incorporate the limitations their respective base claims, and thus are also in condition for allowance. Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2884 in the amount of \$300 for three independent claims in excess of three.

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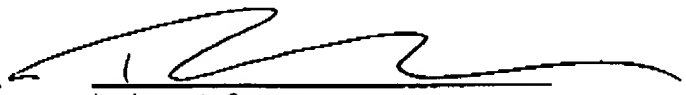
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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, this entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, such action is respectfully requested. The Applicant requests that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5-6-05



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